

THE CENTER FOR IRISH PARTNERSHIPS AT UMASS LOWELL

A Shared Heritage... A Shared Future





The Moody Street feeder gatehouse sits along the Merrimack Canal, one of 5.6 miles of canals built, in part, by Irish immigrants in the early and mid-1800s.

Greetings

FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS:

Given the major role the Irish have played in the history of Lowell—and at UMass Lowell—it was natural that we would seek to strengthen ties with Ireland through new education and research partnerships.

We are happy to let you know about the many—and growing—successes of the Center for Irish Partnerships at UMass Lowell, established in 2009 as one of several new international centers meant to bring the world to our students and our students to the world.

Among the many programs you will read about in this publication are a conference series on emerging technologies in the United States and Ireland; a conference on the Irish in Massachusetts; archeological digs in Lowell and Northern Ireland; faculty exchanges and student study-abroad opportunities.

The success of the center is founded on the strength of our relationships with our Irish partners, the support of our advisory board, the encouragement of the campus and city communities and the generous support of our donors.

Thank you.

Victoria Denoon '07,'15
Stephen McCarthy
Frank Talty '77

Cover shows UMass Lowell students and Queen's University Belfast faculty at archaeological dig at St. Patrick's Church in Lowell in 2012.



"The Center for Irish Partnerships has been an important resource and a valued partner in our efforts to promote economic and cultural cooperation and collaborations between Ireland and the United States."

Michael Heaney,
director of Enterprise and Investment,
Udaras na Gaeltachta
(The Gaeltacht Development Authority)

The Center for Irish Partnerships

ENRICHING A BOND TWO CENTURIES IN THE MAKING

It's an invisible cord, but a strong and enduring one.

It is a cord that has connected Lowell and Ireland since 1822, when Hugh Cumiskey, an immigrant from County Tyrone, led Irish laborers living in Boston on a 30-mile march to Lowell to help dig the canals for the city's booming textile mills. Lowell was a brand new community, cut out of farmland along the banks of the Merrimack River and destined to become a wellspring of the American industrial revolution.

And the Irish played a key role in that revolution—they made up one-third of the population of the city by 1850—as well as in the evolution of this vibrant, ever-changing city over the next two centuries.

Six years ago, with the support of then-Chancellor Marty Meehan and then-Provost Ahmed Abdelal, UMass Lowell established the Center for Irish Partnerships, drawing on the long, rich bond between Lowell and Ireland and Northern Ireland to create collaborations with Irish partners on new research and educational projects of mutual concern.

The center and its projects—with the university's many other international ventures—provides unique opportunities and a global perspective for our students, while contributing to Irish interests through exchange and service.



"Collaboration gives us the best chance of going far in solving the world's big challenges. Collaboration between University College Cork and UMass Lowell can bring us far."

John O'Halloran,
vice president for teaching and learning,
University College Cork

Lanyon Building, Queen's University Belfast



University College Cork



UMass Lowell signed an MOU with University College Cork to enable student exchange experiences and research collaborations.

Our Partners

THE STRENGTH OF THE ENTERPRISE IS IN THE RELATIONSHIPS

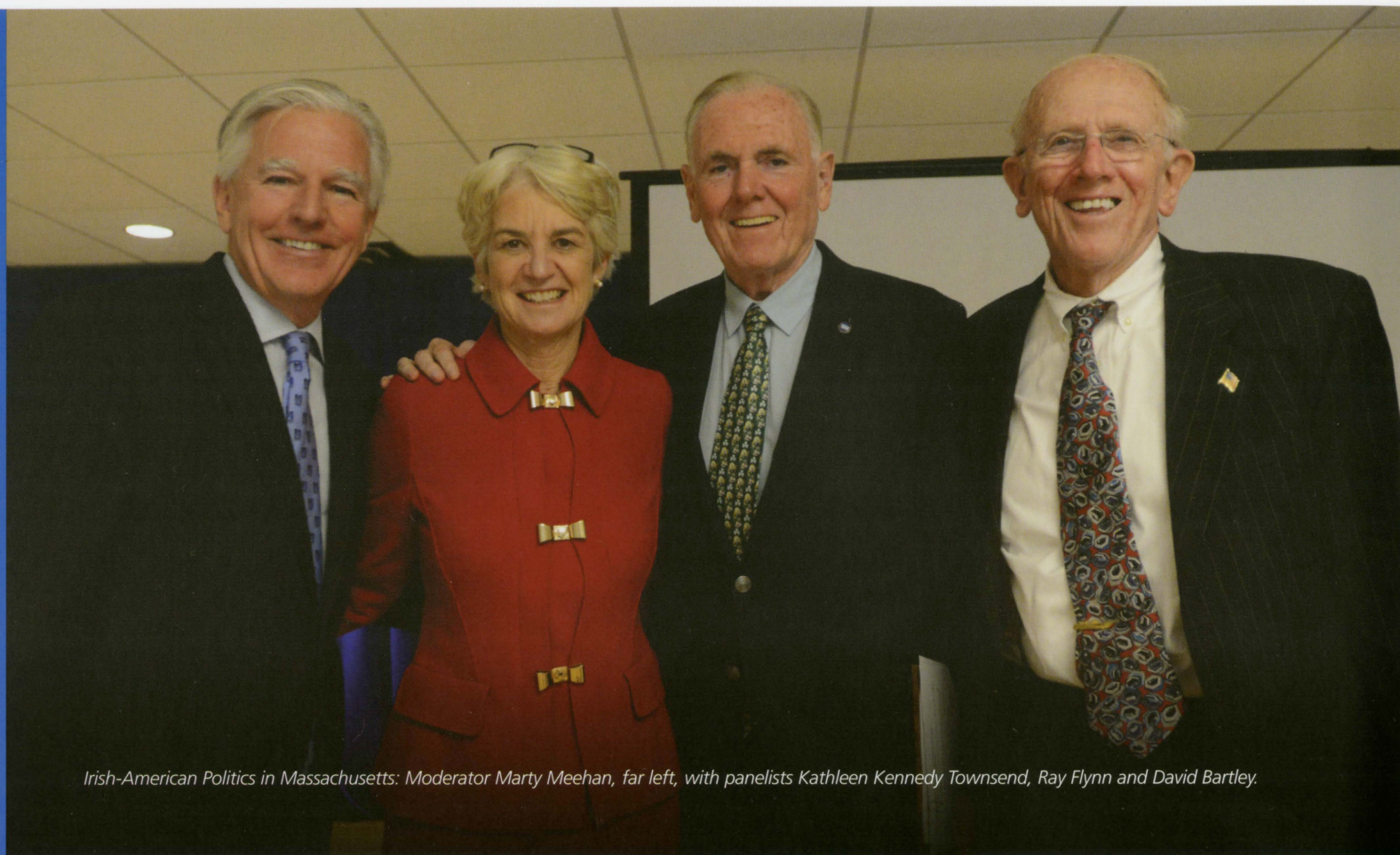
The Center for Irish Partnerships is proud to have established a rich array of collaborations with the following educational institutions in Ireland and Northern Ireland. These partnerships have already yielded student and faculty exchanges, joint research and a deepened understanding of the historical, social and economic connections between the United States and Ireland.

- Queen's University Belfast
- Dublin City University
- Ulster University
- National University of Ireland, Galway
- Letterkenny Institute of Technology
- University of Limerick
- University College Cork

In addition to the formal collaborations, we have a number of informal relationships with additional institutions in Ireland.



A delegation from Queen's University Belfast visits UMass Lowell to discuss expanding partnership opportunities.



Irish-American Politics in Massachusetts: Moderator Marty Meehan, far left, with panelists Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Ray Flynn and David Bartley.



Attending the conference on Advanced Polymers and Teaching and Learning at Queen's University Belfast are, from left, UMass President Marty Meehan, Pro-Vice Chancellor Tony Gallagher of Queen's University Belfast and President Brian MacCraith of Dublin City University.

Working Together

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS THAT YIELD NEW KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

The U.S./Ireland Emerging Technologies Conference Series

UMass Lowell, Dublin City University and Queen's University Belfast established this series, which highlights the innovative research being conducted in nanotechnology, biomanufacturing, bioprocessing, polymer science, medical device development and diagnostics. Researchers from the U.S. and Ireland come together to present cutting-edge research that is shaping the future of how we use nanotechnology and biological sciences in manufacturing and medical diagnostics. To date, three conferences in Lowell and Ireland have addressed the issues of discovery, enterprise and learning approaches in advancing these emerging technologies.

The Irish in Massachusetts: Historical Significance, Lasting Legacy Conference

In September 2014, UMass Lowell and Queen's University Belfast presented a conference at UMass Lowell that offered an interdisciplinary look at the understudied nature of the Irish Diaspora in New England, with specific focus on the Irish and their contributions to Massachusetts. Topics included:

- Ireland and the Atlantic World 1550 to 1650
- Long Threatening Comes at Last: Ireland's Great Famine in Irish-American History
- The Union, Slavery and Irish Americans in the Civil War
- The Irish in Lowell
- Irish-American Politics in Massachusetts
- The Irish in Sport



UMass Lowell and Queen's University Belfast students participate in an excavation led by the Queen's at St. Patrick's Church in Lowell in 2011.



UMass Lowell and Queen's University Belfast students participate in an excavation led by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork at Queen's at the homestead of Irish Labor leader, Hugh Cumiskey, in County Tyrone in 2011.

Digging for Roots

UMASS LOWELL AND QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY STUDENTS UNEARTH HISTORY IN LOWELL AND COUNTY TYRONE

Irish-American Heritage Archaeological Program

In 1831, Kirk Boott, a mill manager, donated a plot of company land to build St. Patrick's Catholic Church to help support the growing population of Irish in Lowell.

In August 2010, archaeologists undertook a first-ever historical archaeological dig on the grounds of St. Patrick's Church, site of the first Irish habitation in the 1820s. The excavation was led by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork at Queen's University Belfast in collaboration with six UMass Lowell students. The team discovered over 1,300 artifacts from the period, including rosary beads, clay pipes, oyster shells, animal bones, nails, pottery shards, bottles and metal work—providing clues to the history of the first wave of Irish immigrants who settled in Lowell.

Additional weeks of excavation took place at St. Patrick's and in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, at the site of the Hugh Cumiskey homestead.

The Irish-American Heritage Archaeological Program enables students to gain a deeper understanding of the life of the Irish before and after An Gorta Mór ("The Great Hunger") and the role played by the Irish in the development of America during the 19th century.



Fulbright Scholar and UMass Lowell Assoc. Prof. James Nehring addresses the Legislative Assembly of Northern Ireland in April 2015 regarding his research on high performing secondary schools in Northern Ireland.

"My collaboration with Dublin City University, made possible with help from the Center for Irish Partnerships, enabled me to broaden my research into the psychosocial well-being of older adults. I have taken what I learned during my sabbatical in Ireland back to Lowell to benefit our nursing students."

Karen Devereaux Melillo '78,
interim dean, School of Nursing

Faculty Connections

PROMOTING NEW ALLIANCES, NEW DISCOVERIES

The Center for Irish Partnerships provides mini-grants to faculty who are engaged in research with colleagues at one of our partner institutions in Ireland or Northern Ireland.

UMass Lowell has hosted faculty from Queen's University, Dublin City University and Cork Institute of Technology on campus for lectures and workshops.

Several faculty members have given lectures, spent sabbaticals and conducted Fulbright research at various institutions including, National University of Ireland Galway, Queen's University Belfast, St. Mary's University College, Belfast, Dublin City University and St. Patrick's Drumcondra.



UMass Lowell students Andrea Andzenge and Donna Hackley, center left and right, presented at a conference entitled "Fifteen Years of 1325: New Perspectives on Peace & Security" at the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice" at Queen's University Belfast. They are joined by Dr. Maria Deiana, left, from Queen's University and by UMass Lowell Prof. Paul Rayman.

Student Experiences

BRINGING NEW GENERATIONS INTO THE CONVERSATION

Dozens of our students have already spent a semester or year studying at one of our partner institutions or participated in specialized summer schools and research projects. They have taken classes, participated in conferences and attended lectures by world-class researchers from Ireland.

Some are pursuing graduate studies in Ireland, made possible by the doors opened to them through the Center's programs and collaborations.



Members of the UMass Lowell River Hawk Hockey Team visited children at Oakwood Integrated Primary School in Belfast during their trip to Northern Ireland to participate in the Friendship Four collegiate hockey tournament in November 2015. The student athletes from Lowell visited local schools, participated in cultural activities and learned about the role that ice hockey has played in bringing communities together in a post-conflict Northern Ireland.



Michael D. Higgins, center, president of Ireland, is joined by Center for Irish Partnerships, Frank Talty, and his wife, Patty Talty.

"No Massachusetts institution has done more to further U.S.-Ireland relationships and to build the peace in the north of Ireland than the Center for Irish Partnerships at the UMass Lowell. The Center is a trailblazer of transatlantic alliances and a pioneer of Irish-American discovery."

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir,
Finance Minister,
Northern Ireland Assembly

Public Affairs

CONNECTING GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

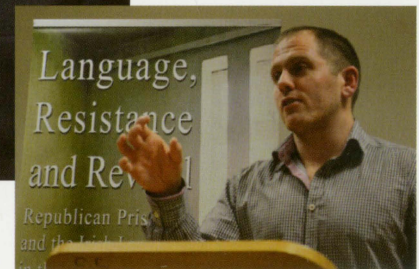
As the reputation of the Center for Irish Partnerships grows, its participation in meetings and conversations of interest to Ireland and the United States has expanded beyond educational institutions to include government and business organizations. Its members have met with the President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins, the Taoiseach Enda Kenny, two Irish Ambassadors to the United States Michael Collins and Anne Anderson and various government ministers from Ireland and Northern Ireland. They also maintain a close working relationship with the Consulate General of Ireland in Boston.

Ireland's former Minister for Children and Youth Affairs visited UMass Lowell for a roundtable discussion on Children's Rights with faculty members.

The Center also hosts an annual visit by a delegation of government and university leaders from Northwest Ireland to discuss partnerships and collaborations between UMass Lowell and the Northwest of Ireland in relation to higher education. This year, that partnership has culminated in the Center co-hosting a conference in Letterkenny, Donegal, addressing a range of issues relating to the legacy of the Easter Uprising of 1916 and the Irish diaspora.



Former president of Ireland, Mary McAleese Ph.D., center, with Chancellor Jacquie Moloney and Ed Moloney, receives an Honorary Degree from UMass Lowell.



Lecture on the revival of the Irish language in the North of Ireland by Feargal Mac Ionnrachtaigh, Ph.D.

Public Engagement

PROVIDING A PLATFORM FOR SHARING INFORMATION AND PERSPECTIVES

At the Center for Irish Partnerships, the team understands that one way to spark new ideas, insights and solutions is to bring community members together to share stories, questions and perspectives. To that end, it provides a wide range of activities such as guest speaker series, seminars, joint conferences and cultural events that are open to the public and help ensure that its work has a lasting and positive impact on the community.

Some recent events include:

- Lecture at UMass Lowell by Dublin City University Prof. Gary Murphy on "Ireland: From Celtic Tiger to IMF Bailout"
- Public forum co-sponsored by the Center for Irish Partnerships and the Middle East Center on Peace and Education entitled "Facing Conflict, Voices from the Field"
- Lecture at UMass Lowell by Queen's University Belfast Prof. Peter Shirlow on "Belfast: A post-conflict conundrum?"
- Reception at which former President of Ireland Mary McAleese was awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters degree.
- Lecture on the revival of the Irish language in the North of Ireland by Feargal Mac Ionnrachtaigh, Ph.D.

The Center for Irish Partnerships

ADVISORY BOARD

- | | | |
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Gifts and Bequests

Tax-deductible donations support programs that provide educational and research opportunities for students and faculty members and help us host public programs and events that advance understanding of the role of Ireland and Irish Americans in Lowell and the United States. For more information, please contact Steven Rogers at Steven_Rogers@uml.edu or 978-934-4803.

The Center for Irish Partnerships at UMass Lowell would like to thank the following individuals for their support:

- | | | |
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*Donor list valid as of April 1, 2016

A Special Thank You

The co-directors would like to extend a special thank you to former Chancellor Marty Meehan and former Provost Ahmed Abdelal for their vision in founding the Center of Irish Partnerships, and to Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney and Provost Don Pierson for their continued support of the mission of the Center.

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